



TRANSIT TIDBITS

Issue 137 JULY 2023

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2023

**--Stay Humble
Work Hard
Be Kind--**

TRAINING UPDATE

Contact Information

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“Wisdom...comes not from age, but from education and learning” --Anton Chekov

PASS training classes were held in Bowman ND on June 16 & 17. A big THANK YOU to trainer Linda Freeman, Tamara Holland and everyone who helped make it happen.

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“Here's the really smart and enjoyable group that took training in Bowman.” - Linda

PASS training will be held in Watertown, SD, July 26 & 27 and in Aberdeen, SD, August 7 & 8. Registration deadline for the Watertown, SD, class is July 19 and the deadline for Aberdeen, SD, is August 1. If you need more information or have drivers/staff you would like to register for either class, please contact Rod at the email above.

North Dakota is in need of PASS trainers. If you or someone from your agency is interested in becoming a certified PASS trainer, please contact Rod at 701-840-1405.

BRING BACK NO PANTS SERVICE

Linda Bartlett, Director
Kenmare Wheels & Meals

In January 2002 seven friends entered the NYC Subway train pant less for seven consecutive stops. They pretended that they “just forgot their trousers”. Thankfully, On the 8th stop a new passenger was selling pants for \$1. The tradition grew for twenty years. Hundreds of thousands of passengers have participated in No Pants Service Day across the nation and around the world in cities like Hong Kong, Istanbul, and Berlin.

Public Transportation began in the 17th century in Paris. In the Middle Ages the city was densely populated but still very small. As the city grew PT services were established for the middle class and necessary for the central government and city businesses. PT did not make it into existence in the US for 200 years. It consistently dominated day to day life until

the rise of the automotive industry in the 1920's. To have a job, go shopping, visit family and friends and enjoy the freedom of movement---all necessary. One cannot find a more reliable, more functional, or more efficient organization for mobility.

However, transit dependent riders have become less available. The lifeline of public transportation was a form of freedom, but now in rural North and South Dakota smaller agencies are having to do some creative marketing to remind riders that they need us. Selling rides to the general public in the Great Plains can be a challenge.

The National Historic Registry offers some ideas. A Threshing Show can be an educational experience for some. The objective has always been to provide a service that was absolutely imperative to the survival of the common good. Many of us are still rebuilding services in rural areas post 2020 shutdowns.

Investments to improve collaboration and integrating services between agencies have been profoundly successful. This small-town bus driver (Executive Director/ Janitor) has seen some additional success in ridership by allowing the needs of the riders to be part of the equation. I can tell you it's 16 miles to the nearest swimming pool, It is 52 miles to the closest physician and today I also learned that it is 67.3 miles to the Divide County Threshing Bee. These are gateway services for people who do not normally ride the bus in their hometown or while on vacation. Necessary or not we must attract new riders

whenever possible while maintaining existing services even when on Farm to Market roads. In NW North Dakota we are doing everything that we can think of to promote TRANSPORTATION FOR ALL- but we always show up with our pants on especially in January!!

DAKOTA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Jacque Senger, Executive Director

The Sleep Inn & Suites in Minot, ND, will be hosting our DTA Conference September 15th through the 19th, 2023. Please remember to mark your calendars for this event. Their phone number is 701-837-3100 – when phoning in to make your reservations, let them know you are a part of DTA.

BUS BARN PLUMBING PROJECT

Maureen Wegenke, Director
James River Transit

Here at James River Public Transit, we have a bus garage “Bus Barn” that has never received plumbing after running out of funds during construction back in 2003. Since 2021 we decided, for our drivers and riders, we really needed to finish this part of the project...including installation of a bathroom; so fundraising began. We had yearly meat/basket raffles, brought in part of the money through “Giving Hearts”, received monetary donations and even had a toilet and other items donated by riders. Bringing in plumbing not only makes for happier

drivers, but helps us keep the vehicles cleaner, and saves money (helping keep our fares affordable) by cleaning our own vehicles; keeping our clients happier as well and they were just as excited as our drivers for the project to be done.



After much hard work, through our many fundraisers and coordination of all the construction crews, the project was finally completed in July of this year. Much of that work was done by our Fleet Manager, Glen Peterson. We decided that during our July Transit Meeting we needed to dedicate the new facilities. Another driver came up with the idea of a sign for dedication. And so, “The Glen” was dedicated.

Many THANKS to Glen Peterson!



“The Glen

“The Finished Product”



DTA Fall Conference/Rodeo Registration Changes

Jacque Senger, Executive Director

The DTA Fall Conference/Rodeo Registration Form is on the website. Please take extra time and review the registration form. We have combined the Conference Attendee, Rodeo Driver, Employee Professional Training, Conference Attendee (Non DTA Member) and Rodeo Judge forms all into one. When you register make sure you check each event you will be attending.

All conference/rodeo registrations need to be submitted by August 15th. If for some reason you need to have an extension to this date, please contact me, phone number

701-740-8894 or email – jacquelinesenger@gondtc.com, so I am aware of the late registration forms coming in.

Tidbit Articles:

Please contact me with articles for your agency.

Recycle:

Please share your Transit Tidbit with your staff and any interested persons.

Address:

Directors, please check with your bookkeepers as well as the rest of your staff to assure they have the correct DTA Mailing Address.

Thanks to all!



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